

D-8148

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S.I. Special Branch Station,

REPORT

Date October 22, 1937.

Subject Situation in Fukien Observed During My Leave.

Made by Clerk Hsu Jit-sin

Forwarded by

Sir,

After the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese hostilities in Shanghai, Amoy, which is the most important commercial port in Fukien Province, where the Japanese more or less monopolise the trade and business, immediately became unhealthy because of the tense atmosphere. The Formosan natives who are considered trouble-makers and runners of illicit business, became alarmed when the Japanese Consul there ordered their evacuation before August 18. The majority refused to comply with the order as they were unwilling to leave Fukien where they had a large share in most enterprises. The Japanese Consul had finally to extend the period of evacuation to August 24 and on that date lowered the Consulate flag and fired signals for a general withdrawal, but several hundred Formosans stayed on in Amoy.

On the Japanese Consul leaving the port, the Cantonese soldiers of the 157th Division immediately took up the garrison duties in Amoy and all defences along the coast were immediately strengthened. Trenches were dug along the face of the hills facing the sea and martial law was enforced. All persons travelling between Kulangsu and Amoy were compelled to produce passes issued by an official organ and residents in Amoy itself had to secure "good citizen certificates".

On the early morning of September 3, four Japanese warships bombarded the different forts around Amoy harbour and the fire was returned. As three of the warships were entering the harbour at a very high speed, it was said that a hit had been scored on one, which was probable as all three vessels changed their course and steamed out of the harbour. The Japanese kept up an intermittent fire for several hours at a distance

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beyond the firing range of the forts. Three bombing planes then commenced to drop bombs in the vicinity of the Garrison Commissioner's Headquarters, but failed to hit their object. The forts and wireless station were also bombed but the damage inflicted was slight. After the shelling of Amoy, the populace began to leave for Kulangsu and when a few days later, a rumour was current that the Japanese might use Kulangsu as a base for attacks, many people fled to Hongkong and the South Sea Islands. All the business of Amoy was paralyzed, and most banks and big firms removed their offices to Kulangsu, while refugees crowded at the bus stations and shipping offices for passages to inland and outports. As most of the trucks and buses were commandeered by the Government for military transportation, refugees had great difficulty in booking passages.

Foochow is comparatively quiet and so far has not yet been molested by Japanese warships. The traffic between Amoy and Foochow is maintained by truck service and foreign vessels.

Despite the efforts of the Cantonese Army to take over the control of Amoy forts, the latter are still in the hands of the Chinese Naval Authorities. At the beginning of the transfer of the 157th Division to Amoy, Admiral Ling Kuo-keng, Commander of the Amoy Forts, was accused of treason and was arrested and detained, while 200 men of the naval landing party were disarmed. Later, the Central Government ordered the Army to hand back the control of the Forts to the naval authorities and Admiral Ling resumed command when he was released. This took place before the bombardment of Amoy by the Japanese warships.

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Chuangchow, a city north of Amoy, was garrisoned by the 80th Division of the Central Army; but it is reported that the 80th Division will be transferred to Amoy to take the place of the 157th Division who has its headquarters at Tsangchow, a city to the west of Amoy. General Hwang Tao, Commander of the 157th Division who has been appointed Tsangchow-Amoy Garrison Commissioner, is now at Amoy.

The Kulangsu Municipal Council is co-operating with the Amoy Authorities regarding the enforcement of the emergency orders, the control of foodstuff and also measures against air raids. On several occasions, the Consular Body at Kulangsu agreed to extradite political offenders and Chinese traitors to the Chinese Authorities, but the Kulangsu Municipal Council were not in accord and over this matter Captain Bass, Chief of Police, had a dispute with the Amoy Police, and was granted leave of absence by the British Senior Consul Mr. Martin.

At present, the condition in Southern Fukien is very peaceful with the exception that business is in a very depressed state.

Since the Japanese fleet blockaded the China Coast, mails have been disorganized. The mail between Amoy and northern ports has been maintained by truck service which travels by Amoy to Chuangchow, Foochow and Kiengou in Fukien then to Cheking or Kiengse where the railways are used.

The units and number of troops at Amoy and surrounding districts as well as their headquarters are as follows:-

Unit.	Men	Sector
The 914th Brigade of the 157th Division.	2,000	Amoy city area.

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Sector</u>
Peace Preservation Corps.	200	Ho San District.
Naval Landing Force.	200	Various Ports.

Clerk *Wm Jit Sen*

D.C. (Special Branch)

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Sir

Shewn to Major Gwynne

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